

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method, comprising:
receiving a request for a unique identifier from a requesting entity;
determining whether the catalog server in a database management system is available to handle the request;
if the catalog server is not available, determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously in the event that the request is synchronous; and
if the request may be handled asynchronously, allowing the catalog server to process the request and returning control to the requesting entity.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises accessing a data structure containing restricted names for system elements.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the request is for a unique identifier and wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether a data structure contains the unique identifier, wherein the data structure contains restricted unique identifiers for system objects.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises accessing a data structure containing restricted names for system objects comprising at least one of triggers and constraints.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether the requesting entity is an operating system.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether one of an operating system and the database management system is being loaded.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises accessing a name table containing a plurality of unique identifiers.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the synchronous request may be handled asynchronously comprises accessing a name table containing a plurality of unique identifiers reserved for use by an operating system.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises:

determining whether a program is being loaded, wherein the program is one of an operating system and the database management system; and

if the program is being loaded, determining whether the request is for a restricted unique identifier usable only by the program.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein determining whether the request is for the restricted unique identifier usable only by the program comprises determining whether a data structure contains the restricted unique identifier, wherein the data structure contains a plurality of restricted unique identifiers for system elements.

11. A method, comprising:

receiving a request for a unique identifier from a requesting entity;

determining whether a catalog server in a database management system is available to handle the request;

if the catalog server is not available, determining whether the request is synchronous;

if the request is synchronous, determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously by determining (i) whether the request is for a restricted unique identifier and (ii) whether the requesting entity has authority to use the restricted unique identifier; and

if the request may be handled asynchronously, providing the request to the catalog server and returning control to the requesting entity.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether the requesting entity one of the database management system and an operating system.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether one of the database management system and an operating system is being loaded.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether the requesting entity is a component of a program being loaded.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously is performed by an interface.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises:

determining whether a program is being loaded, wherein the program is one of an operating system and the database management system; and

if the program is being loaded, determining whether the request is for a restricted unique identifier usable only by the program.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises accessing a data structure containing a plurality of restricted unique identifiers for system elements.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the system elements comprise at least one of triggers and constraints.

19. A signal bearing medium containing a program which, when executed by a processor, performs a method, comprising:

receiving a request for a unique identifier from a requesting entity;
determining whether a catalog server in a database management system is available to handle the request;
if the catalog server is not available, determining whether the request is synchronous;
if the request is synchronous, determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously by determining (i) whether the request is for a restricted unique identifier and (ii) whether the requesting entity has authority to use the restricted unique identifier; and
if the request may be handled asynchronously, providing the request to the catalog server and returning control to the requesting entity.

20. The signal bearing medium of claim 19, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether the requesting entity one of the database management system and an operating system.

21. The signal bearing medium of claim 19, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether one of the database management system and an operating system is being loaded.

22. The signal bearing medium of claim 19, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether the requesting entity is a component of a program being loaded.

23. The signal bearing medium of claim 19, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously is performed by an interface.

24. The signal bearing medium of claim 19, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises:

determining whether a program is being loaded, wherein the program is one of an operating system and the database management system; and

if the program is being loaded, determining whether the request is for a restricted unique identifier usable only by the program.

25. The signal bearing medium of claim 19, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises accessing a data structure containing a plurality of restricted unique identifiers for system elements.

26. The signal bearing medium of claim 25, wherein the system elements comprise at least one of triggers and constraints.

27. A system, comprising:

a database;

a server configured to process requests submitted by requesting entities by accessing the database;

a restricted names table containing restricted unique identifiers;

at least one first requesting entity configured to submit requests for unique identifiers for database elements and wherein the first requesting entity is authorized to access the restricted names table;

at least one second requesting entity configured to submit requests for unique identifiers for database elements and wherein the second requesting entity is unauthorized to access the restricted names table; and

a transaction interface configured to (i) determine whether the server is available for processing requests and, (ii) if the server is not available, determine whether a synchronous request may be handled asynchronously.

28. The system of claim 16, wherein the transaction interface is configured determine whether the synchronous request may be handled asynchronously by determining whether the synchronous request is from the first requesting entity and determining whether the request is for a restricted unique identifier contained in the restricted names table.

29. The system of claim 16, wherein the transaction interface is configured determine whether the synchronous request may be handled asynchronously by determining whether the synchronous request is from the first requesting entity.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the transaction interface is configured determine whether the synchronous request is from the first requesting entity by determining whether the first requesting entity is a component of a program being loaded.